

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 were examined in the Office Action mailed April 18, 2007. The following actions and rejections are pending in the Office Action:

- Claim 7 now stands withdrawn as a distinct species disclosed in Fig. 4 and beginning at Specification page 13, line 26.¹
- Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0075624 A1 to Wang, *et al.* ("Wang").²
- Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,190 to Nagasaki, *et al.* ("Nagasaki").

As a threshold matter, the Applicants respectfully note that claim 10 was cancelled in the Preliminary Amendment filed January 18, 2007.

1. **Withdrawal of the Restriction Is Requested.** The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction of claim 7. Original claim 7 recites that the coolant passage is formed in a wall, specifically a side wall as this claim was previously amended. Because the wall of original claim 7 includes a side wall, the Applicants submit that the previous amendment to claim 7 remains within the scope of the original claim 7, and therefore is not a newly defined distinct species. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

2. **Claim 1, As Amended, Is Patentable Over Wang.** The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 under § 102(e) as

¹ Claim 11 is also mentioned in this section, however, based on the § 102(e) rejection of claim 11, the Applicants are responding with the understanding that the reference in the restriction to claim 11 was intended to refer to claim 7.

² Claim 9 is identified as rejected under § 102(e), however, this claim was cancelled in the Applicants' January 18, 2007 Preliminary Amendment.

anticipated by Wang, on the grounds this reference does not disclose all of the features of the present invention recited in amended claim 1.

In the Examiner's Response to Arguments, it was noted that the Applicants in their January 18, 2007 remarks appeared to be relying on a feature note recited in the claims, specifically, "the bottom plate constituting the entire bottom surface of the processing chamber." April 18, 2007 Office Action at 4-5. The Applicants have amended claim 1 to address this comment: "wherein said support member is connected to said sidewall of said process chamber and configured and arranged to serve as a bottom plate of said process chamber as the entire bottom surface of the process chamber, said placement stage is directly joined to said support member."

As previously noted by the Applicants, the Wang reference discloses in a base 175 made of ceramics or a metal-ceramics composite material, and a support 190 made of a metal-ceramics composite material which is fixed on a lower surface 50 of a chamber 25, *i.e.*, a bottom wall of the chamber 25 forms the lower surface 50, and the support 190 is fixed on the bottom wall surface of the chamber 25. Wang ¶ [0036]; Fig. 1. Amended claim 1 recites that the support member itself forms a part of the wall of the process chamber (specifically, the "entire bottom surface"), meeting and sealing against the sidewall of the chamber. Wang's bottom-supported and bottom-sealing configuration (support 190 fixed to the bottom surface of the chamber 25) results in a chamber with an excessively large chamber volume, as the volume of chamber 25 is increased by a volume corresponding to the thickness of the support 190. Moreover, the Wang

configuration greatly inhibits high speed production processes, due to the interference between the bottom walls of the chamber 50 and the support 190. Accordingly, the Wang reference does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 chamber having a reduced volume by reducing a volume corresponding to the thickness of the support member as in the present invention, *i.e.*, a process apparatus having “a support member ... for supporting said placement stage,” and “a seal member located between the support member and a sidewall of said process chamber,” wherein the support member is connected to the chamber sidewall and serves “as a bottom plate of said process chamber.”

Because Wang does not disclose (or suggest) the support plate/sidewall/seal arrangement recited in amended claim 1, this claim and its dependent claims 2-3, 6-8 and 11 are patentable over this reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

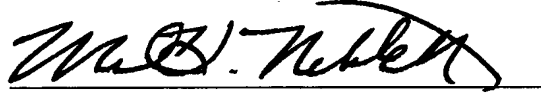
If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010986.52734US).

September 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Sanok", written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169
Mark H. Neblett
Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDS:MHN:tas
2938018